



COMMISSION MODIFIES RECREATIONAL SPOTTED SEATROUT REGULATIONS IN SOUTHWEST LOUISIANA

The Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission ratified a rule modifying recreational harvest regulations for spotted seatrout in a designated area of southwestern Louisiana at its June 1, 2006 meeting.

Effective June 20, 2006, the creel limit in the designated area is reduced from 25 fish to 15 fish per person. The area affected by the rule is the same area that has a limit of no more than two fish exceeding twenty-five inches total length as part of the daily bag and possession limit.

The final rule reads as follows: Within those areas of the state, including coastal territorial waters, south of Interstate 10 from its junction at the Texas Louisiana boundary eastward to its junction with Louisiana Highway 171, south to Highway 14, and then south to Holmwood, and then south on Highway 27 through Gibbstown south to Louisiana Highway 82 at Creole and south on Highway 82 to Oak Grove, and then due south to the western shore of the Mermentau River, following this shoreline south to the junction with the Gulf of Mexico, and then due south to the limit of the state territorial sea, under the authority of the provisions of R.S. 56:325.1(A), the daily take and possession limit shall be 15 fish, regardless of where taken, with no more than two spotted seatrout exceeding 25 inches total length. Those spotted seatrout exceeding 25 inches in length shall be considered as part of the daily recreational take and possession limit.

The final rule will become effective on June 20, 2006. All

Spotted Seatrout Regulations Changes



Beginning June 20, 2006, possession limit of speckled seatrout in the area illustrated to the left will be 15; no more than two of which may exceed 25 inches in length.

other applicable rules regarding the harvest of spotted seatrout established by the commission shall be in effect, including the existing size restriction that requires all spotted seatrout retained recreationally to be at least 12 inches total length.

For more information, contact Harry Blanchet at 225-765-2889 or hblanchet@wlf.louisiana.gov.

LDWF Administration

Dwight Landreneau, *Secretary*
Janice Lansing, *Undersecretary*
John Roussel, *Assistant Secretary*
W. Parke Moore III, *Assistant Secretary*

Wildlife & Fisheries Commission

Terry D. Denmon, *Chairman*
Earl P. King, Jr. Henry Mouton
Wayne Sagera Robert Samanie, III
Frederic Miller Patrick C. Morrow

Division Administrators

Gary Tilyou, *Inland Fisheries*
Karen Foote, *Marine Fisheries*
David Moreland, *Wildlife*
Phil Bowman, *Fur & Refuge*
Col. Winton Vidrine, *Enforcement*





"NO LICENSE REQUIRED" FISHING WEEKEND JUNE 10-11

The Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission officially proclaimed June 10 and 11 "No License Required" fishing days for Louisiana citizens and visitors during June 1 meeting proceedings.

The promotional fishing dates are provided for non-anglers as an opportunity to experience the sport of fishing.

"We hope people use these weekend dates to get outdoors and experience the thrill of recreational fishing with family or friends," said Dwight Landreneau, secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries.

The program provides the open access opportunity in an effort to attract more people into the ranks of licensed fishermen. Those license fees support LDWF's conservation efforts including habitat management.

"No License Required" fishing weekend is a part of the Sixth Annual National Fishing and Boating Week that runs from June 3 to June 11. The event was created to help reverse the trend of declining participation in outdoor activities across America.

According to a survey by the Kaiser Family Foundation, children spend 44 hours a week watching TV, playing videogames and on the computer. Research data, compiled by the Recreational Boating and Fishing Foundation,

Photo by Joel Courtney



LDWF wants to encourage everyone to take advantage of "No License Required" Fishing Weekend June 10-11

shows that outdoor activities can get kids interested in nature and help with family communication.

"LDWF is encouraging licensed recreational fishermen to introduce someone to fishing on the weekend of June 10-11," said John Sturgis, LDWF education manager. "It's an activity anyone of any age can enjoy, even without a boat. Louisiana offers some of the best bank and pier fishing opportunities in the south."

For more information, contact John Sturgis at 225-763-5448 or jsturgis@wlf.louisiana.gov.

LOUISIANA WILD TURKEY NEWS AVAILABLE ON THE WEB

The Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Wild Turkey Program has developed a new Web-based wild turkey newsletter titled *Louisiana Wild Turkey News* that highlights turkey management, conservation and hunting issues.

The newsletter is now available on the department's Web site at

www.wlf.louisiana.gov and can be found by selecting "Programs" and then "Research" from the "Hunting" drop down menu. Then click on the "Turkey Program" link. It can also be found by typing "Louisiana Wild Turkey News" in the search engine at the right of the screen.

This newsletter will be produced twice a year - in the spring and fall -

and will be similar to the successful Deer Management Assistance Program (DMAP) newsletter. It will strive to provide updated information regarding turkey hunting, management and biology.

For more information, contact Fred Kimmel at 225-765-2355 or fkimmel@wlf.louisiana.gov.



AGENTS CITE EARLY FROGGERS ON ATTAKAPAS WMA

In the late evening hours of May 31, Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Enforcement Division agents cited nine Louisiana residents for allegedly hunting frogs during a closed season in four separate cases on Attakapas Wildlife Management Area in lower St. Martin Parish.

The 2006 frog-hunting season reopened at 12 a.m. on June 1 following a closed season during the months of April and May.

At 10:50 p.m., agents discovered Jason Chambers, 32, Henry Lissard, 57, and Susan Lissard, 55, all of New Iberia, with 44 frogs in their possession.

Then at 11:11 p.m., Toby Chevert, 29,



and Armand Metrejean, 30, both of Pierre Part, were found with one frog in their possession.

Agents then stopped John Brown, 32, of Belle Rose, and James Fitzgerald, 45, of Ventress at 11:28 p.m. with 338 frogs in their possession.

At 11:30 p.m., agents apprehended Phillip Dimaggio, 17, of Morgan City, and Ian Lecompte, 17, of Berwick with 22 frogs in their possession.

Taking frogs during a closed season is punishable by a fine between \$250 and \$500, or jail time up to 90 days, or both plus court costs. All frogs were alive and were seized and returned to the water.

Agents participating in the cases were Sgt. Ross Mire, Senior Agent Jason Romero, and Agents Scott Dupre and David Boudreaux.

For more information contact Lt. Col. Keith LaCaze at 225-765-2988 or kla-caze@wlf.louisiana.gov.

AGENTS MAKE DWI ARREST ON MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND

Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF) Enforcement Division agents cited two St. Bernard Parish men on March 17 for alleged deer hunting violations.

Steven V. Bergeron, 19, and Matthew Martinez, 18, both of St. Bernard, were each cited for taking deer in a closed area and during a closed season. Bergeron was additionally cited for taking over the limit of deer because he allegedly killed both bucks. In addition to the criminal charges, Bergeron will be assessed civil restitution for two deer that are valued at \$524.54 for each deer.

Agents were tipped that Martinez and Bergeron were seen in St. Bernard transporting two bucks on a four-wheeler during the hunting closure enacted by the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission after Hurricane Katrina. Flooding and habitat destruction had a negative impact on most wildlife populations and left surviving animals vulnerable. The closure prohibited hunting of all

small and big game animals in St. Bernard Parish. Agents began an investigation and located the two sets of deer antlers at a St. Bernard taxidermy shop. Bergeron and Martinez were questioned and admitted to killing the deer in St. Bernard Parish with a .270 rifle.

The violations of taking or possessing deer in a closed area and taking or possessing over the limit of deer carry fines up to \$500, or imprisonment up to 90 days or both. Taking or possessing deer during a closed season carries a fine up to \$999, or imprisonment up to 120 days, or both, and includes forfeiture of anything seized in connection with the violation.

Agents participating in the investigation were Capt. Brian Clark, Sgt. Scot Keller, and Sr. Agents Jason Gernados and Roy Pier.

For further information, contact Lt. Col. Keith LaCaze at 225-765-2469 or klacaze@wlf.louisiana.gov.



L.D.W.F. 2006 BAYOU PIERRE W.M.A. DOVE HUNT LOTTERY APPLICATIONS NOW BEING ACCEPTED

Applications are now being accepted for an opening day lottery dove hunt on the Bayou Pierre Wildlife Management Area (WMA) the first Saturday of the September 2006 dove season.

The opening day hunt is limited to 75 hunters who are selected by a random drawing. Dove hunters wanting to apply for the drawing can obtain an application from any Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries regional office or Web site at www.wlf.louisiana.gov.

Hunters may apply individually or as a group with no more than five applications per group. Group applications should be stapled together and will be drawn as a group.

A \$5 non-refundable administrative fee will be charged for each applicant regardless of age. Applications must be accompanied by a check or money order made payable to the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries. All applications must be returned to the address listed on the application by July 7, 2006. Successful applicants will be notified by mail.

Last year's lottery hunters enjoyed a successful hunt on a cooler than normal early September afternoon as 68 of the 75 hunters selected in the 2005 lottery participated. A total of 545 doves were harvested with 22 hunters bagging a limit on the opening day lottery hunt.

After the opening day lottery hunt, Bayou Pierre WMA is open to all hunters wanting to participate in the September hunting tradition. The first three days of the 2005 dove season on Bayou Pierre WMA resulted in hunters putting in 135 hunting efforts and bagging 647 doves and 24 pigeons which was an increase from the 576 doves harvested during the first three days of the 2004 season.

Don Carpenter, Bayou Pierre WMA supervisor in a recent report on the condition of the dove fields commented:

"The spring planted fields are developing according to plans. The winter wheat fields are the best ever with the wheat maturing earlier than past years. Mowed strips in the fields are already attracting resident doves."

Bayou Pierre WMA is located in Red River and Desoto parishes approximately 20 miles south of Shreveport. The WMA encompasses 2,212 acres with approximately 100 acres managed for doves. Applications can be obtained by going to www.wlf.louisiana.gov, under the "Hunting-WMAs/Refuges-Lottery Hunts" drop down menu.

For more information, contact Steve Hebert at 318-371-3050 or shebert@wlf.louisiana.gov.

BEAUREGARD PARISH MAN SENTENCED FOR LITTERING

On May 23 Brandon L. Harris, 18, of Longville was sentenced by Judge Stuart Kay of the 36th Judicial District in Beauregard Parish for gross littering.

An investigation began in January by Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Enforcement Division agents after 14 bags of household trash were found in Barnes Creek. Among the trash were clues that led agents to Harris's residence in Longville. After questioning, Harris admitted to placing the 14 bags into one of the state's Natural Scenic Rivers.

Judge Kay ordered Harris to pay a fine of \$750 plus court costs in the amount of \$98.50. Harris was ordered to serve eight hours of community service in the Litter Abatement Program, and was placed on six months of supervised probation. The supervised probation at \$55 per month is to be converted to unsupervised probation after all fines and community service are met.

For more information, contact Lt. Col. Keith LaCaze at 225-765-2988 or klacaze@wlf.louisiana.gov.

